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NO 5

VIVID EXAMPLE OF NAVAL GROWTH

LOCKS OF THE PANAMA CANAL
ALREADY ALMOST TOO SMALL
FOR BIGGEST WARSHIPS.

ADVANCES OF EIGHT YEARS

Continuous and Rapid Development in
Size and Efficiency of War Material
Has Bearing on the Conference on
Armaments.

By EDWARD B. CLARK.

Washington.—It was only eight years ago that the water from Gatun lake was turned into the Culebra cut, now known as the Gaillard cut. The canal then was opened for commerce and for the passage of battleships. It was thought at that time, October, 1913, that the locks had been made large enough to accommodate any war vessel which was likely to be built for a century to come. Yet today, only eight years from the time of the opening of the waterway, there are ships of the American navy which have to "scrunch" in order to get through the Gatun, the Pedro Miguel and the Miraflores locks.

This fact has some bearing on the conference for the limitation of armaments and Far East problems, although on the surface it may not seem in any way to be related to the problems to be solved. There may be a limitation set on the number of ships which any nation may keep in commission, and there may be ordered a reduction in the number of vessels at present commissioned in the various navies, but it is known, of course, that every country will be allowed to keep a navy of sufficient size to protect its various interests.

Of course there will be navies in the future just as there are navies today, and it is not believed that anything will be done at the conference to prevent improvements and enlargements of the ships of the present time when vessel replacements are necessary and are authorized under the rules governing limitation agreements.

It has been suggested from time to time, more because of the humor of fancy than for any other reason, that the nations of the world go back to the days of old wooden ships and smooth-bore guns in order to save money for the taxpayers. The argument was that if no nations had anything but wooden ships and smooth bores they would be on the same war level as they are when each possesses its steel-clad and its 16-inch rifles.

What Future Battles May Be.

Of course any such suggestion as this instantly was repudiated, but it is within the range of remote possibilities that something may be suggested at the coming conference to bring a pause to the further development of destructive engines of warfare. Probably, of course, this will not be done, and if science and invention go forward as they have gone forward in the last 50 years, the day will come when man cannot go to war on sea or land without knowing that either his army or his fleet, or the army or the fleet of the enemy is to be annihilated. No one left to tell the tale, may be the history of some great battle of the future.

A few weeks ago 4,000 marines of the United States navy engaged in battle maneuvers at the Wilderness where the Grant and Lee forces met fifty-odd years ago. Such has been the improvement, if you want to call it improvement, in the machinery of war that if those 4,000 marines, armed as they were the other day and with all the modern machinery of warfare at their command, had met in actual battle on the field a force numerically equal to the combined armies of Grant and Lee, armed as those armies were in 1864, the marines could have swept the combined forces opposed to them off the face of the earth and never have lost a man.

In the Spanish war there was an American merchant vessel which had been converted into a cruiser. It mounted four 5-inch guns. It was just a merchant vessel, and yet alone it could have destroyed in battle every man-of-war which the North and the South together put on the seas in the days of the Civil war, and could have done it in a single fight.

One of our newest and greatest battleships today could destroy without much of an effort the combined American and Spanish fleets as they existed in the days of the Spanish war. The Brooklyn, the New York, the Oregon, the Indiana, the Iowa, and all the rest plus the steel clads of Cervara would have been sent to the bottom after a short engagement with one capital ship of our present day navy.

Ignorance in Red's Attack.

In the attempt of the Red element of human society to assassinate the American ambassador to France,

Myron T. Herrick, and in threats of violence to United States ambassadors and consuls elsewhere, there is seen new evidence of the fact that certain foreigners still are unable to differentiate between the federal government of the United States and the individual governments of the states.

Ambassador Herrick, directly or indirectly, had as much to do in an official way with the trial and conviction of the two Italians who committed murder in Massachusetts as he had or has had to do with the market price of pawpaws in southern Indiana. The United States government as a government has had nothing to do with the prosecution of the two men, Sacco and Vanzetti, whose conviction for murder in Braintree, Mass., has aroused the ire of the Reds here and in Europe.

Even great governments of the world do not understand thoroughly where the authority of the United States ends and the authority of the individual states begin. In 1882, or thereabouts, some public officials in the city of New Orleans were killed by assassins, several of whom later were shot and killed by an aroused populace. The Italian government instantly made representations to the United States in the matter of reparations, because some of the men killed in retaliation for their alleged acts were Italian subjects.

How Italy Was Appeased.
It seemed to be an impossibility for the United States government to make the Italian government understand that the affair was a state and not a federal matter. The Italian government said: "This thing happened in the United States and therefore the United States government is responsible." Virtually the only answer that could be made was, "The affair happened in Louisiana and Louisiana in such matters is a sovereign state."

Of course Italy could not proceed against Louisiana and so Uncle Sam took the matter over and, without smashing the Constitution, or invading states rights, or making final admission that nothing could be done, took some money out of a contingent fund which happened to be in existence and paid it over to the widows and children of the Italian subjects who had been killed in the Crescent City fracas. This satisfied the Italian government, but it did nothing to change the situation in the United States as between the government and the states, conditions which remain just where they were.

There has been a gradual development of the practice of throwing bombs and of sending infernal machines through the mail, or by express, to men marked for death. Prior to the year 1870 little or nothing was known of such deeds in the United States. In Europe bombs had been thrown on occasion and sometimes they hit their mark.

Claims Court Needs Relief.

The great war has brought an added amount of business to many of the United States courts, but the tribunal which fairly must stagger under the weight of accumulating work is the United States court of claims which sits in the city of Washington.

Comparatively little ever is written about the court of claims, and yet under its jurisdiction come many of the most interesting suits at law which the courts of the country know. It is understood that even today the court of claims has cases before it which have grown out of the Revolutionary war and of the early Indian wars in which the United States was engaged.

It was only recently that under a blanket act of congress the last French spoliation claims were settled. These grew out of losses to American merchants engaged in sea trade during the time of the troubles with France in the closing days of the Eighteenth century.

The great war is responsible for the accumulation of many cases before the United States court of claims. Any citizen of the United States who thinks that he suffered a loss for which the government was responsible is at liberty to enter a suit in this court, even if the amount of loss was trivial. The court, in fact, can take up cases in which the loss runs anywhere from one cent to a billion dollars, although it is not presumable that what might be called nickel or 50-cent cases ever will trouble the jurists.

Today there is one case before the court in which evidence is being taken which involves a claim for damages amounting to \$125,000,000. This case has to do with certain losses supposed to have been sustained by reason of some trouble in which submarines and torpedoes played a part.

Plan to Expedite Its Cases.

Today before congress there is a bill in the form of an amendment to the law governing the operation of the court of claims, which is intended to expedite the business of the tribunal. The jurists desire that they shall be given authority to appoint examiners who may go into the merits of a good many of the cases in advance of the court proceedings. To-

day this is the right of all the federal courts except this particular one, and yet this court, it is said, needs the authority more than any other. The bill has passed the senate, but it is now hung up in the committee on judiciary of the house of representatives. Lawyers say that its passage will save the people money and the court much time. Court of claims cases under present conditions are apt to drag through long periods of time.

When a United States citizen secures a verdict in his favor from the court of claims for damages against the United States government his troubles are not ended. The court cannot order a government official to levy on the government for the damages which it has awarded. The man who has a verdict in his favor must go to congress and secure the passage of an appropriation bill to meet the amount which the court has decided as his due.

There's a Conscience.

Old Lady—I hope you don't sell papers on Sunday.
Newsboy (sadly)—No'm; I ain't big enuf to carry the Sunday ditions yet.
—Virginia Reel.

SPECIAL SESSION ALL UNCERTAINTY

NOTHING IN WAY OF PROGRAM
OF CORRECTIVE LEGISLATION
HAS BEEN NOTED.

TO BE ACTION ON EDUCATION

Vague Rumors are Current of Attempt
to Call Constitutional Convention
to do Something About Taxes.

Raleigh.

Uncertainty enwraps the coming session of the legislature. No legislative program has been worked out. Municipal authorities whose agitation over the failure of the municipal finance act brought about the session have evolved nothing yet in the way of a program of corrective legislation. The State Board of Education will be eminently satisfied with a resolution appropriating \$700,000 to cover a deficit.

Beyond that there is no plan. It is generally supposed that the cities will ask the proper passage of the municipal finance act as it was written last February. No fault has been found with it except that it had not the proper entries made in the Senate Journal. Representative Matthews, Bertie, chairman of the House Committee on Education, will likely offer a resolution for the relief of the school fund.

And that is all. Vague rumors are current of an effort to abolish capital punishment; of an effort to call a constitutional convention to do something about the taxation system and to modernize the basic law generally; of an effort to resubstitute the equalization act and restore something of equity in taxation among the counties. But whether any of these things will be attempted remains to be disclosed.

Morrison and Bally Differ.

North Carolina farmers, delegates at opening session of the fourteenth annual convention of the State Farmers' Union heard Governor Morrison and J. W. Bally, and they heard expressions of views on the state's agricultural life as far apart as the east from the west.

The governor found North Carolina rich in its agricultural life, ranking sixth in the total value of its agricultural products, second in value per capita and first per acre planted. Mr. Bailey mentioned frequently of late as a candidate to succeed Governor Morrison found the state languishing agriculturally, the farmers in the depths of despair and the whole state in a bad way because of the poverty of the agriculturalists.

More Money for State.

The war finance corporation announced that an additional \$150,000 has been advanced in North Carolina for agricultural and livestock purposes.

Jno. F. Oakly has been named postmaster at Benaja, and Miss Mary E. Taylor at Como, Hertford county. Miss Bettie Martin has been confirmed as postmaster at Blacoe, and James E. Houser, at Cherryville.

West Point Appointments.

Washington, (Special).—These men have been designated for West Point: Robert L. Bridger, Winston-Salem; W. Oscar McMullan, Elizabeth City, and Wilbur R. Carleton, Alexander. Messrs McMullan and Carleton are first alternates.

TO MAKE A FIGHT ON THE SUBMARINE

THE BRITISH DESIRE TO DISCUSS
FIGURES OF THE AMERICAN
REPLACEMENT PROGRAM.

JAPANESE ALSO INTERESTED

The United States is Not Disposed to
Reduce Below 90,000 Tons Her
Proportion of Submarines.

Washington.—British desire to discuss the figures in the American replacement program as to submarines does not surprise American naval officers. It is fully expected that the Japanese also will have something to say on this point.

At the same time, it may be said definitely that the United States is not prepared to reduce below 90,000 tons the proportion of submarines she would be allowed to maintain in the proposed restriction of fleets. Submarines enter vitally into American schemes of naval defense of her own great coast line.

As insular powers, both Great Britain and Japan are exposed to submarine operations to a degree not true of the United States, officers say. There is little doubt among naval folk here that Great Britain in particular would welcome absolute prohibition of submarine warfare, or, failing that, sharp limitation on the use to be made of underwater craft. That phase of the question the writing of rules to govern employment of submarines in war, will come before the conference later, as it has a definite place on the agenda with other new agencies such as aircraft, air bombing raids and gas.

May Postpone Watson Probe.

Washington.—Members of the special senate committee appointed to investigate charges made by Senator Watson, democrat, of Georgia of bargains without trial of American soldiers in France, stated the inquiry in all probability would not begin until after the meeting of congress in regular session next month.

Balfour Speaks For Britain.

Washington.—Great Britain stands beside the United States as a firm friend in this conference.

The speech of Arthur James Balfour is but the index of British policy which now aims to make the conference a success by assisting the American proposition in every way possible.

Claude Kitchin Goes Home.

Washington.—Representative Claude Kitchin, democratic leader, left here for his home in Scotland Neck, N. C. He returned to Washington several days ago from Albany, N. Y., where for some time he has been under the care of a specialist. His health was reported as greatly improved.

Tentative Valuation of Road.
Washington.—The tentative valuation of the Charleston and Western Carolina railroad was fixed by the Interstate Commerce Commission at \$10,569,027. The road's capital investment account, according to the report, totaled \$9,851,927.

Picketing Garment Shops.

New York.—Picketing of 8,000 garment shops by striking workers has begun. Every picket was provided with a card of instructions from the union warning against engaging in arguments or making a disturbance.

Fletcher Charges Discrimination.

Washington.—Senator Fletcher, democrat, Florida, charged in the senate that Postmaster General Hays was discriminating against former service men in the appointment of postmasters.

Cotton Consumed in October.

Washington.—Cotton consumed during October amounted to 494,745 bales of lint and 61,513 of lintless, compared with 401,325 of lint and 48,364 of lintless in October last year, the census bureau announced.

World's Approval Genuine.

Washington.—The world's approval of the naval disarmament suggestion of the American delegation to the conference for the limitation of armaments is sincere, according to Senator Oscar W. Underwood.

Britain Welcomes Principle.

London.—Officials in Downing street declared frankly that Prime Minister Lloyd George cordially welcomed the general principle of America's naval restriction program as laid down by Secretary of State Hughes.

Bomb Suspects Arrested.

Lisbon.—Two men, said to be communists, have been arrested charged with placing the bomb which exploded on the staircase at the American consulate here November 1.

Navy For Defense Only.

Washington.—Limitation of the world's navies so that they will be adapted for defensive purposes only is the fundamental motive which inspired the proposals submitted to the armament conference by Secretary Hughes.

Gardner in Worse Trouble.

Phoenix, Ariz.—Roy Gardner, escaped mail robber, who was captured here, had a new charge against him when Sheriff John Montgomery read a warrant to him charging him with criminally assaulting a young girl here on October 24.

Emergency Tariff Extended.

Washington.—Signing by President Harding of the bill to extend the emergency tariff act until permanent tariff legislation is enacted was announced at the White House.

Armament Move Slowing Up.

Washington.—The Far Eastern nations await the reply of Japan to China's declaration of rights, and the American move for limitation of naval armaments is slowing up because of objections raised both by Japan and Great Britain.

Salisbury.—Noah W. Fife, one of the city's oldest men, died at his home on South Main street. Mr. Fife was 91 years old and was a veteran of the War Between the States.

Maxton.—A gentleman from Laurinburg, driving in an Overland car, ran in a head-on collision with a Ford, driven by Oscar McLean, about a mile east of town. Both cars are in the hospital. The occupants, though shaken up, were not injured.

Asheville.—William Johnson, negro, claiming to be from Greenville, S. C., was caught in the act of robbing the postoffice at Balsam, according to W. B. Farwell, postmaster. The light of a flashlight in the postoffice at a late hour caused two men to give notice to the official.

Salisbury.—Calvin L. Houser, well known citizen, was seriously injured in a fall at the Southern transfer shed, where he has been employed for many years. He was rushed to a local hospital where it was thought examination would disclose a broken hip.

Greensboro.—Although Rev. R. Murphy Williams has found it impossible to accept the position unanimously tendered him by the North Carolina Synod as superintendent of orphanage work, he is demonstrating that his heart is very much in the work being done at Barium Springs.

Hickory.—The Hickory Chamber of Commerce sent out a number of hickory sticks to officers of the American legion headquarters in several states. This action was in response to the great demand for the hickory souvenir sticks following the Kansas City convention, where they made a large hit.

Salisbury.—Dates for the mid-winter meeting of North Carolina Press association, to be held in Winston-Salem, were fixed for January 5 and 6 by the executive committee of the association, which met here.

Monroe.—Baxter Ashcroft, editor of The Monroe Enquirer, died following an illness of several weeks.

Rutherfordton.—Mrs. Thomas S. Justice, who gave birth to triplets, three little girls, here on October 4, died of leakage of the heart, Bright's disease and complications.

Spencer.—Miss Eva Mae Holt, aged 15 years, youngest daughter of Mrs. J. A. Holt, residing at Mt. Olive, died in a Baltimore hospital following an operation for a tumor on the brain.

Trenton.—Mrs. Winifred E. Coble died at her home here recently. She had been ill for four years. Mrs. Coble was born January 4, 1836.

Salisbury.—The Salisbury aldermen have passed on its first reading an ordinance that is meant to close up the town tight on Sunday with the exception of a few hours during which time necessities may be purchased.

Wake Forest.—R. R. Patterson, a member of the freshman class of Wake Forest college who shot and wounded J. S. Saunders, a sophomore whose home is in Monroe, has resigned from college and returned to his home in Fayetteville.

WAR OR PEACE?

Which Shall We Have in the Future?

The World Will Anxiously Watch the Washington Disarmament Conference
in the Fervent Hope That It Will Mean Permanent Peace.
Are You Interested? If So You Will Need

The Charlotte Observer

To Keep Yourself Thoroughly Posted Day by Day on What is Going on in the Disarmament Conference, What Those Participating Are Doing, Saying and Thinking and How the Statesmen and Peoples Represented Are Viewing the Proceedings.

Here's The Observer's Line-Up for Covering the Conference From All Angles—
The Associated Press—Full Night and Day Leased Wire Report. Written by a Corps of the biggest and best trained men in the employ of the World's Greatest News Gathering Agency.

Universal Service—Conference Undercurrents, Backgrounds and Side Lights; Also Commentaries of Eminent Authorities, Opinions of Men Trained to See Below the Surface and Behind the Scenes. Through Universal Service The Observer will have covering the conference Arthur Brisbane, Norman Hapgood, Rear Admiral Fiske, Peter B. Kyrle, Mary Roberts Rhinehart, and Robert J. Frew, while reporting by cable the attitude of foreign lands will be George Bernard Shaw of England; Wu Ting Fang of China; D'Annunzio and Ferrero of Italy, and Others.

Newspaper Enterprise Association—The complete service of this organization with its corps of special correspondents, photographers and artists, giving views on the many angles of the conference.

Frank H. Simonds—High authority on diplomatic methods and customs and on international politics, who became famous during the war for his interpretative articles on the movements of the armies.

Besides this extraordinary service on the Disarmament Conference The Observer will make a specialty of publishing the news of the Carolinas, including the extra session of the North Carolina Legislature, sports, society and political, industrial and business news, markets, etc., and the general news of the nation and the world.

The Sunday Edition carries a four page colored comic section, a page of fraternal order news, and a variety of other features, including William J. Bryan's Weekly Bible Talks.

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